

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A composite superconducting tape characterized by at least one constituent diffusion-bonded superconducting tape and at least one outer layer of metal tape overlying and bonded to one of the exposed major faces thereof with the provision that if there are two such metal tapes they differ in a common strength property.
2. (Original) A tape according to claim 1 comprising a multiplicity of stacked and bonded constituent superconducting tapes.
3. (Original) A tape according to claim 1 comprising a multiplicity of stacked and diffusion-bonded superconducting tapes and in which all elongate components extend longitudinally.
4. (Previously presented) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 1 wherein there are two metal tapes of different compositions.
5. (Previously presented) A superconducting tape according to claims 1 wherein there are two metal tapes of the same composition but different thickness.
6. (Original) A composite superconducting tape according to claim 2 in which the constituent superconducting tapes are stacked in at least two parallel stacks.
7. (Cancelled)